

AMENDMENT

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for the determination of latent phospholipid hydroperoxide glutathione peroxidase (PHGPx) comprising the steps of
 - a. obtaining a sperm sample,
 - b. solubilizing the spermatozoa by ~~using~~ adding detergents and chaotropic agents and reactivating latent PHGPx by ~~using high concentrations of~~ adding thiols and,
 - c. removing the chaotropic agents and reactivating thiols from the sample and,
 - d. determining ~~enzymatic activity~~ the content of the ~~reactivated~~ solubilized latent PHGPx.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein ~~said additional step of removing any~~ removal of the chaotropic agents and reactivating ~~reagents~~ thiols is performed by gel filtration.
4. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein ~~instead of determining enzymatic activity of re-activated latent PHGPx~~ the content of solubilized PHGPx is determined by conventional immunological techniques or measurement of enzymatic activity.
5. (Previously Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the chaotropic agent is 4 – 8 M guanidine chloride, 4 – 8 M guanidine thiocyanate or 5 – 8 M urea.
6. (Previously Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the thiol is 50 – 300 mM 2-mercaptoethanol, 25 – 300 mM dithiothreitol (DTT) or dithioerythritol (DTE).
7. (Previously Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the sperm sample is from humans or livestock.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a method~~ Method of claim 1, ~~in a method for predicting~~
wherein the content of solubilized PHGPx predicts the fertilizing potential of
spermatozoa in sperm samples.